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TODAY'S FREE SPORTS BETTING TIPS...

[Footie Flutters](#)

Win Bet - Champions League - Benfica v Ajax 20:00 - Benfica

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Win Bet - Chelmsford (A.W) 17:20 - Dubrava @ 6/5

[The Secret Handicapper](#)

Win Bet - Musselburgh 12:45 - Son Of Feyan @ 3/1

Grace Can Defend At Sun City - By Ian Hudson

Tommy Fleetwood won the Race to Dubai last season and Justin Rose finished in second place. The two English players are again in the top three with just two counting tournaments remaining. The current leader is Francesco Molinari but none of the top three are playing in the Nedbank Challenge this week. The title of Europe's number one will be decided at the DP World Tour Championship next week and anyone of three players could win that honour but Molinari is a huge favourite.

Rose moved into third place with a solid win in the Turkish Airlines Open last week. It was the first title defence of Rose's career and the win took him back to number one in the world rankings. He is also the first player to successfully defend a Rolex Series tournament as he came from three shots off the pace ahead of the fourth round. The win was secured at the first extra hole after tying with Haotong Li on 17 under in regulation play over 72 holes. Rose is too many points behind Molinari secure a first Race to Dubai title.

Rory McIlroy could come well off the pace and get close to winning the Race to Dubai. The prize funds for the Nedbank Challenge and the Tour Championship mean two wins for McIlroy could see him run close. However, to have any chance Molinari and Fleetwood would have to finish well down the field or miss the cut next week. McIlroy won the Race to Dubai in 2012, 2014 and 2015 and with Henrik Stenson is the only multiple winner of the Order of Merit in its current format.

If McIlroy is travelling to South Africa to play this week you can assume he still thinks he has an outside chance of winning a fourth title. Colin Montgomerie won the Order of Merit eight times between 1993 and 2005 and another title for McIlroy would make him the winning most golfer since the Monty era. Stenson has won the title twice in the last five years but can't win this time. McIlroy and Fleetwood are the only players who can deny Molinari the Race to Dubai.

The Nedbank Challenge is hosted by South African Gary Player and is played on his course at Sun City in the country of his birth. The venue has hosted the event for the last five seasons and the defending champion is Branden Grace. Alex Noren won the title in 2016 but he is not playing this week. McIlroy is the favourite ahead of major champions Sergio Garcia and Louis Oosthuizen in the betting. The course measures 7162 yards which is short by modern standards for a par 72 track. The fairways are narrow which means driving accuracy will be more important than distance.

McIlroy is an excellent driver but the nature of the course won't give him an advantage. The greens are small and well protected by bunkers so hitting the greens in the correct number of shots will be required for good scoring. The weather is projected to be very dry and hot with light winds. Stamina and fitness will be important and rounds in the heat will be draining. Li could go one better than last

week and win the tournament but he is just two many points behind Molinari to win the Race to Dubai.

Grace has the best course form in the field and clearly has a game suited to the layout. He has finished in the top four in three recent starts at the Nedbank Challenge and is 26 under for 12 rounds on the Sun City course. Grace found 18 greens in regulation in the final round a year ago which he played in 66 shots to clinch the win. His major strength was shots gained in approach play so he knows how to find the greens. Top 30s in his last three major championships confirms that Grace is the player to beat in South Africa where he was born this week. Li is another leading contender.

Today's Sports Betting Preview - By Rick Elliott

United Can Draw In Turin Tonight

Apparently Manchester United have 659 million online followers which isn't bad for the club everybody is supposed to love to hate. The vast majority of those have never been near Old Trafford and enjoyed the delights of Streford. A tiny proportion of that fan base will be in Turin tonight to see United's Champions League fixture against Juventus, the Old Lady of Italian football. The club also have fans around the world and in Italy they are either loved or hated, just like United in England.

Even in the internet and social media age its still results on the field that matter most so which group of fans around the world will be celebrating most? As one of those 659 million fans the heart says United but the head can't get away from Juventus. The Italian champions are unbeaten in their last nine matches against teams from the Premier League. A point for Juventus takes them through to the last 16 and there is no benefit from finishing first or second in the group. Everybody can be happy with a DRAW and that outcome is 3/1 with **Betfair**.

The champions of England play the champions of Ukraine at home in the Champions League tonight. Manchester City meet Shakhtar Donetsk and bookmakers can only see one result which is a home win. City lost to Lyon at the Etihad Stadium on match day 1 but have since won two matches, including by three goals without reply in the reverse match in the Ukraine. Recent form suggests a City win by a wide margin.

The home team have the squad and resources not to miss the quality of Kevin de Bruyne who will be absent for six weeks following a new injury. City's last six matches in the Champions League have all produced three goals and Shakhtar have lost six of their last seven fixtures in England. Correct score betting is fraught with danger but 3-0 TO MANCHESTER CITY is 11/2 with **Ladbrokes**.

The racing today in Britain and Ireland today is more about quantity than quality. We are embarking on that part of the season when there is a major jumps race every

Saturday but the midweek fare can be average. On the Flat Nottingham honours the wife of the late Sir Henry Cecil with a Class 2 handicap over five furlongs (2.15). GRACIOUS JOHN won the same race in 2016 off nine pounds higher and the horse is 14/1 with William Hill to prevail again today.